Setting up of core group on exports in the small scale sector

1438. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has set up any "Core Group on Exports in the Samll Scale Sector" recently as reported in 'The Hindustan Times' dated the 10th July, 1997;

(b) if so, what are the policy changes recommended by the Group to set up exports by small units; and

(c) when the last review was undertaken in respect of the export performance of the samll scale sector and steps initiated so far to improve their foreign exchange earning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a)Yes, Sir. A Core Group on exports in the small scale sector has been set up under the Chairmanship of DGFT on 1.7.97. The Core Group has members from the Government, trade and industry.

(b) and (c) The first meeting of the Core Group will be held shortly. Based on the recommendations received from the Small Scale Industry, Policy changes would be recommended by the Core Group so as to improve the foreign exchange earning of the Small Scale Sector. A 'Committee on Export in the Small Scale Sector' reviews the performance of Small Scale Sector from time to time. The last meeting of the said Committee was held on 3.1.97.

Kandla Export Processing Zone

1439. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of units and their production capacities which have been allotted land in Kandla Export Processing Zone;

(b) the value of exports made by these units during each of the last three years;

(c) the details of units, if any declared sick before starting of commercial production;

(d) the steps taken by Government to increase the exports from KEPZ; and

(e) the average revenue earned by way of exports from KEPZ during each of last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) 184 units have alloted land/built up sheds in Kandla Free Trade Zone, of which 97 units are in operation. These units broadly fall under the product groups of textiles, chemicals, engineering goods, minerals etc. Units are approved keeping in view factors like value addition and level of export projected. The date regarding production capacities of individual units is not maintained.

(b) Exports from Kandla Free Trade Zone for the last three years are indicated below:

(in Rupees crores)

Year	Exports
1994-95	320.01
1995-96	325.29
1996-97	374.15

(c) During the last five years, no unit has been declared sick before commencement of commercial production.

(d) Steps taken to increase exports from Kandla Free Trade Zone include broadening of the area of activity under EPZ Scheme to allow trading, re-export after re-packing labelling, repairs, re-conditoning and re-engineering, increased delegation of powers to Development Commissioners and overall liberalisation/ simplification of policy and procedure related to EOU/EPZ scheme.

(e) Exports not being subjected to any duty, there is no revenue receipt accruing to Central Govt. by way of exports from KAFTZ. However, net foreign exchange earnings from KAFTZ during the last three years are as under:

Year	NEF(in Rupees crores)
1994-95	224.44
1995-96	241.70
1996-97	244.72

Functioning of crucial balancing investment scheme

1440. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD:
DR. SHRIKANT RAM CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Crucial Balancing Investment Scheme is functioning well;.

(b) if so, what are its achievements uptil now;

(c) plans to make this Scheme more effective; and

(d) what steps will be taken to remove bottlenecks in infrastructure for export production and conveyance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Crucial Balancing investment Scheme, which has been renamed Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme (CIB) is functioning well. So far following six proposals have been approved under the Scheme:

	Name of the Proposal	Contribution of Govt. of India (in crores)
1.	International Land Port at Petrapole West Bengal.	2.00
2.	Four lane By-pass at Haridaspur Checkpost, West Bengal.	4.92
3.	Truck Terminus at Bongaon and strengthening and widening of Bongaon Panchpota road, West Bengal.	2.28
4.	System Improvement Scheme, Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh.	8.00
5.	Infrastructure Development, Aroor, Kerla	1.05
6.	Strengthening of Uran Ponvol road, Masharashtra.	3.00
	TOTAL:	21.25

(c) and (d) In order to make the Scheme more effective, comprehensive guidelines for submission of proposals under the Scheme have been formulated. All the State/Union Territory Governments have been requested to send proposals under the Scheme, depending upon their needs. The proposals are considered by a high level Committee under the Chairmanship of the Commerce Secretary.

Achievements of IIFT

1441. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are recent achievements of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade;

(b) the research projects which they have taken in hand;

(c) what are the programmes which they have undertaken recently; and